

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A welding unit (27) including a welding apparatus (1) with a welding torch unit (29) connectable thereto via a hose pack (23, 28), wherein at least one control device (4) – and a welding current source (2) and ~~optionally a wire feeder unit (30)~~ are arranged in the welding apparatus (1), wherein the welding torch unit (29) is formed by at least ~~two~~ first and second separate welding torches (10, 35) ~~intended to carry out at least two independent, separate welding processes~~, wherein the first welding torch (10) has a first welding wire and is configured to carry out a first cold-metal transfer welding process and ~~at least a~~ the second welding torch (35) has a second welding wire and is configured to carry out a second cold-metal transfer welding process with a forward-

backward movement of a the second welding wire (32), and ~~that~~  
wherein a device for synchronizing the first and second welding  
processes carried out by the ~~at least two~~ first and second  
welding torches (10, 35) is provided; or wherein the first  
welding torch (10) comprises a laser unit (76) which, in the  
welding torch unit (29), is combined with the second welding  
torch (35) for the cold-metal transfer welding process.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A welding unit (27) according  
to claim 1, wherein the first welding torch (10) ~~is comprised of~~  
comprises a WIG/MAG welding torch.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A welding unit (27) according  
to claim 1, wherein the first welding torch (10) ~~is comprised of~~  
comprises a WIG welding torch.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A welding unit (27) according  
to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first welding torch  
(10) ~~is comprised of~~ comprises a plasma burner.

Claims 5-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A welding unit (27) according to claim 1, wherein the first welding torch (10) precedes the second welding torch (35) in ~~the a~~ welding direction.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A welding unit (27) according to claim 1, wherein two separately controllable current sources (2, 38) are arranged in the welding apparatus (1) to supply the welding torch unit (29) with energy.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A welding unit (27) according to claim 1, wherein only one current source (2) is arranged in the welding apparatus (1) to supply the welding torch unit (29) with energy, which current source is alternately connected with one of the respectively active first and second welding torches (10, 35).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A welding unit (27) according

to claim 1, wherein the ~~at least two~~ first and second welding torches (10, 35) comprise a common gas nozzle (37).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A welding unit (27) according to claim 1, wherein the ~~at least two~~ first and second welding torches (10, 35) of the welding torch unit (29) are laterally offset relative to one another ~~in the longitudinal direction of the weld, i.e.,~~ in the welding direction.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A welding unit (27) according to claim 1, wherein the first and second welding wires (13, 32) ~~of the at least two welding torches (10, 35)~~ are comprised of comprise different materials.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A welding unit (27) according to claim 1, wherein the first and second welding wires (13, 32) ~~of the at least two welding torches (10, 35)~~ have different diameters.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A welding method comprising the steps of:

(a) carrying out a first welding process;

(b) carrying out a second welding process; and

(c) synchronizing the first and second combining at least two different welding processes in time;

wherein at least the first welding process is comprised of comprises a cold-metal transfer welding process, wherein a consumable welding wire is moved forward and backward, and ~~that~~ ~~the at least two welding processes are synchronized in time~~ wherein the second welding process comprises a cold metal transfer process or a laser welding process.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A welding method according to claim 14, wherein a the second welding process is comprised of comprises a MIG/MAG welding process.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A welding method according to claim 14, wherein a the second welding process is comprised of

comprises a WIG welding process.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A welding method according to claim 14, wherein ~~a the second~~ welding ~~process is comprised of~~ process comprises a plasma welding process.

Claims 18-19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A welding method according to claim 14, wherein the cold-metal transfer welding process follows the ~~other~~ second welding ~~process(es)~~ process in ~~the~~ a welding direction.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A welding method according to claim 14, wherein at least ~~two~~ the first and second welding processes ~~using~~ use consumable welding wires and are temporally synchronized in a manner that the droplet detachments from the welding wires of the ~~at least two~~ first and second welding processes take place simultaneously.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A welding method according to claim 14, wherein at least ~~two~~ the first and second welding processes ~~using~~ use melting welding wires and are temporally synchronized in a manner that the droplet detachment from the welding wire of one of the first and second welding ~~process~~ processes takes place in a manner temporally offset relative to the droplet detachment of the other of the first and second welding ~~process~~ processes.